This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted by a user at a terminal connected to the network;

comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and

automatically, determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and

if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, notifying the user that whether the patient has prequalified for at least one specific any clinical trial;

presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials;

determining whether the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on the user's response to the targeted questions; and

storing the responses to the targeted questions.

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including providing the user with instructions for enrolling in the clinical trial for which the user has prequalified.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including:

asking the user a plurality of questions; and

creating a patient profile based on the responses to the plurality of questions.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of asking the user a plurality of questions includes:

asking the user one or more static questions;

asking the user one or more dynamic questions which are selected based on the user's responses to other static and dynamic questions; and

creating a the patient profile based on the responses to the static and dynamic questions.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 6, wherein static questions, dynamic questions, and targeted questions are provided with a plurality of answer options, and the user may select one or more answer options in order to answer the questions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user is required to submit an answer in a specified format, the specified format being suitable for evaluation by a computer program process.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further including:

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updating the static questions, dynamic questions, or answer options.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the internet.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is provided with an application to submit for a clinical trial for which the patient has prequalified.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the application is filled out by the user and submitted on-line to the server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the application is forwarded to the clinical trial site.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patient profile is forwarded to the clinical trial site with the application.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application and patient profile forwarded to the trial site includes a patient ID number, but does not include the patient's name to protect the privacy of the patient.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further including:

notifying the clinical trial sponsor when the user submits an application to the clinical trial site.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is provided with a search engine that allows the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical trial.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acceptance criteria includes geographic location.

19. (Currently amended) A system for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

a server connected to a network;

a data storage device included in the server; and

a database located in the data storage device, the database storing patient profile information for a patient and acceptance criteria for a plurality of clinical trials;

the server comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for the clinical trials stored in the database, automatically, determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and

if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, notifying the user that whether the patient has prequalified for at least one specific any clinical trial;

presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials;

determining whether the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on the user's response to the targeted questions; and

storing the responses to the targeted questions.

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20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the database contains at least one of:

    a) disease/sub-disease records;

    b) drug records;

    c) content records;

    d) clinical trial records;

    e) question records;

    f) device records;

    g) patient profile records;

    g) user registration records; and

    g) trial site records.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein a record in the database contains links to other related records.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the server transmits a plurality of questions to the user over the network, the server also transmits a plurality of answer choices for each question, the server receives responses from the user, and the server builds a patient profile based on the responses.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the server retrieves a disease/sub-disease record corresponding to a disease/sub-disease entered by the user, the disease/-sub-disease record containing links to question records, the server retrieving the question records to access questions to be provided to the user.

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24. (Currently amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, performing a method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted by a user at a terminal connected to the network;

comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and

automatically, determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and

if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, notifying the user that whether the patient has prequalified for at least one specific any clinical trial;

presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials;

determining whether the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on the user's response to the targeted questions; and

storing the responses to the targeted questions.

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25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

presenting at least one web page to permit an individual to be registered with a database by submitting information indicating whether notice of one or more clinical studies is desired and registration information, wherein the registration information includes at least a geographic location, a disease condition of interest, and contact information;

automatically registering the individual with the database upon receipt of the registration and indicating information;

automatically determining, in accordance with the indicating information and the registration information, whether to provide notice of a clinical study related to said disease condition;

providing notice of said clinical study;

presenting a screening questionnaire associated with said clinical study; and

storing in the database answers submitted in response to said questionnaire.

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